

Creating a Story/Narrative

Step 1 Working Title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The working title helps you stay focused on your topic and purpose. • Use this title while you write the draft. Improve it later. • During a test your title shows that you have read and understand the prompt—the directions.
Step 2 Quick Sketch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A quick sketch lets you practice your story. • This is not an art assignment; the sketches help you picture the story to make sure that you have a beginning, middle, and end. • Sketch the events as quickly as you can with details that will help you when you write. • Use it to help you pick a setting, create characters, present a conflict, and plan for an ending.
Step 3 Quick Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jot words and phrases (descriptions, action verbs, details, places, names, feelings, time, weather, and so on.) by all dashes. • This is a second rehearsal; the notes will be helpful when you write; the notes will help you write the story quickly.
Step 4 Interesting Beginning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a strategy for beginning your story; a strategy saves time and improves your work. • Try the Where, When, Action, Character, Comment, or Dialogue strategies. • Try several then pick your best “beginning” sentence.
Step 5 Story Transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitions let your reader know that the scene or the action is changing; they are tools for developing your story. • Transitions often show the start of a new paragraph—a new time or a new place. They are sometimes called signal words. • Make them smooth and interesting; use them to bring events and characters to life.
Step 6 Memorable Ending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure the reader knows the purpose or point of your story. • Do not use “The End.” Give your readers a reason to think about the story or a reason to remember a character. • Let the ending share a feeling with your reader.